

**ACUPUNCTURE BOARD**

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**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON STANDARDS, TEST,
AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS
January 31, 2002**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 4946, this report is being submitted to the Legislature addressing the standards, test, and experience requirements relating to the practice of acupuncture.

EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE STANDARDS

There are three avenues for meeting the educational requirements to become licensed as an acupuncturist in California. Business and Professions Code Section 4938 defines that the Board shall issue a license to practice acupuncture to any person who makes an application and meets the following requirements:

- (a) Is at least 18 years of age.
- (b) Furnishes satisfactory evidence of completion of one of the following:
 - (1) An educational and training program approved by the Board pursuant to Section 4939.
 - (2) Satisfactory completion of a tutorial program in the practice of an acupuncturist which is approved by the Board.
 - (3) In the case of an applicant who has completed education and training outside the United States and Canada, documented educational training and clinical experience which meets the standards established pursuant to Sections 4939 and 4941.
- (c) Passes a written examination administered by the Board that tests the applicant's ability, competency, and knowledge in the practice of an acupuncturist. The written examination shall be developed by the Office of Examination Resources of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- (d) Is not subject to denial pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475).

Pursuant to the above, subsection (b)(1) involves graduation from an approved acupuncture school or college with a specified minimum curriculum of 2,348 hours (1,548 didactic/theoretical training and 800 hours supervised clinical training) as defined in Title 16, California Code of Regulations Section 1399.436. Subsection (b)(2) involves completion of a tutorial program consisting of 2,850 hours (2,250 hours clinical training and 600 hours theoretical/didactic training) as defined in Title 16, California Code of Regulation Section 1399.425. Subsection (b)(3) requires that foreign-trained applicants must meet the minimum curriculum requirements and hours as defined in subsection (b)(1).

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Upon completion of the educational requirements for licensure, applicants are eligible to apply for the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination. Passage of this examination is required in order to obtain a license in California. The written examination tests the applicant's ability, competency, and knowledge in the practice of an acupuncturist. The Department of Consumer Affairs Office of Examination Resources (OER) develops the written examination. The licensing examination consists of 200 multiple choice questions, which is administered twice yearly and adapted into three languages, English, Mandarin and Korean. The examination is administered by Cooperative Personnel Services (CPS) of Sacramento.

LICENSING STATISTICS

The dates of the last four written licensing examinations were June 12, 2000, December 13, 2000, June 20, 2001 and January 23, 2002. For the purposes of this report statistical data will be provided for the December 2000 and June 2001 examinations since those candidates who passed the December 2000 examination would have applied for licensure in early 2001 and be included in the year 2001 statistics.

The Board administered the December 13, 2000 written examination to 585 candidates (i.e., 317 English, 151 Mandarin and 114 Korean) of which 56 percent/327 candidates passed. The June 20, 2001 written examination was administered to 572 candidates (i.e., 279 English, 154 Mandarin and 139 Korean), of which 51 percent/295 candidates passed.

A total of 608 new acupuncture licenses were issued during the period of January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001. As of December 31, 2001 a total of 7,592 licenses have been issued under Chapter 12, Business and Professions Code.

CONCLUSION - OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF EXAMINATION

The California Acupuncture Licensing Examination is performing at its highest level ever. OER's evaluation of the June 2001 examination indicated that overall the June examination was highly reliable (.94) with an acceptable level of difficulty (.71) and standard error of measurement (5.57). These statistics indicated that the June 2001 examination was more reliable than the December 2000, which had a reliability coefficient of .92. In addition, the June 2001 had less error variance than the December 2000 examination, which had a standard error of measurement index of 6.68.

Submitted By: _____
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Executive Officer